

Executive, CIA

13 January 1949

Budget Officer

Payment of drivers license and meter parking fees

1. There has arisen in connection with the current operations of the EIB and Contact Branch field offices questions regarding the propriety of effecting reimbursement from unvouchered funds to officials who procure drivers licenses in order to conform with State laws and local regulations and who expend from personal funds the usual .50 or .10% fee in metered zones in local cities and municipalities. Based on decisions of the Comptroller General of the United States, this office has heretofore disallowed claims for reimbursement for expenditures made for drivers license fees but has not taken any action to disallow or formally question the claims made for expenditures in connection with parking of Government-owned vehicles in metered zones.

2. There are attached memoranda issued by the Office of the General Counsel relating to these two problems and wherein the conclusions have been drawn that it is contrary to present rulings to effect reimbursement to officials for either of the two types of expenditures involved. The expenditure of fees for the parking of Government cars in metered zones is occasional and usually does not amount to more than a total of .50% per month for any one official. The primary matter for consideration in determining whether or not to "condone" reimbursement for these metered zone fees appears to be one of "sovereign immunity" and the principal of sovereignty is most important as compared with the relatively small amount of expenditures which might be regarded as being technically voided by existing rulings made by appropriate authority.

3. It is believed advisable that the matter be given immediate and full consideration since the problems involved will be of a recurring nature and inasmuch as final and positive action to be taken by auditors and Certifying Officers may involve much detail work and might result in an awkward situation or possible embarrassment to the Agency. There are therefore, two questions which should be determined by the Director upon receiving appropriate recommendations:

- a. Should the Budget Office continue to disallow reimbursement (or refunds) for drivers license fees?
- b. Should claims for the metered zone fees applicable to Government-owned vehicles be disallowed in the future and if so, what action, if any, should be taken with respect to payments heretofore made?

4. Kindly return the attached correspondence when it has served its purpose.

cc: [redacted]

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Houston ✓

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